are in search of those 600 people who came to India by getting visa from Pakistan but are missing after the expiry of their visa;

(b) whether it is also apprehended that missing persons are ISI agents; and

(c) if so, the policy adopted by Government to repatriate the people after the expiry of their visa and to what extent it has proved effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) As on 31.7.99, 400 and not 600 Pak Nationals (who came to India with visa from Pakistan) had gone underground in Uttar Pradesh. The possibility of some of them having links with the ISI, cannot be ruled out. The powers under section 3(2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals, including Pakistani nationals, staying in India unauthorisedly after expiry of their visa, have been entrusted to the State Govts. and UT Administrations, including the State Govt. of U.P. Besides, administrative instructions are issued to them from time to time, to launch special drives to detect foreigners staying illegally, for their immediate deportation.

Indo-Pak agreement to stop unprovoked Firing

628. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item captioned ""Pak, India agree to end unprovoked firing" as reported in the Statesman dated 25th November, 1999;

(b) whether any agreement with Pak authorities was held in the recent past to have a complete halt to unprovoked firings along the international border in Jammu and Kashmir sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how many times unprovoked firing took place after the said agreement and to what extent the agreement have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the bi-annual meeting between BSF and Pak Rangers held at Lahore in November, 1998, agreement to halt unprovoked firing along

the International Border in Jammu Sector was made which was effectively implemented with effect from 23rd November, 1998. This resulted in return of border propulation to their villages. But due to Kargil war, the scenario along the International Border completely changed and unprovoked firing restarted which continued till November, 1999 when bi-annual meeting between BSF and Pak rangers was held again at Lahore where this point was discussed and both sides agreed to instruct their troops not to resort to unprovoked firing.

(d) After this agreement, unprovoked firing has reduced, although some unprovoked firing by Pak troops and its retaliation by Indian troops on Jammu border is taking place regularly.

Tapes of Azhar Masood's Speeches

629. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 12th January, 2000 captioned "Tapes of Azhar Masood's speeches pepper Kanpur";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken against those trying to fan communal passions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Union Government immediately on reciept of such information have sensitised the concerned State Governments to take appropriate action. Advisories have been sent to the State Government from time to time take appropriate preventive/precautionary measures to curb such activities.

(c) Activities of all organisations having a bearing on maintenance of communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcement agencies and requisite legal action is taken where necessary.

Militancy in Kashmir Valley

630. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spurt in the militant attacks in Kashmir Valley especially since the hijaking of Indian Airlines plane and release of three jailed militants;